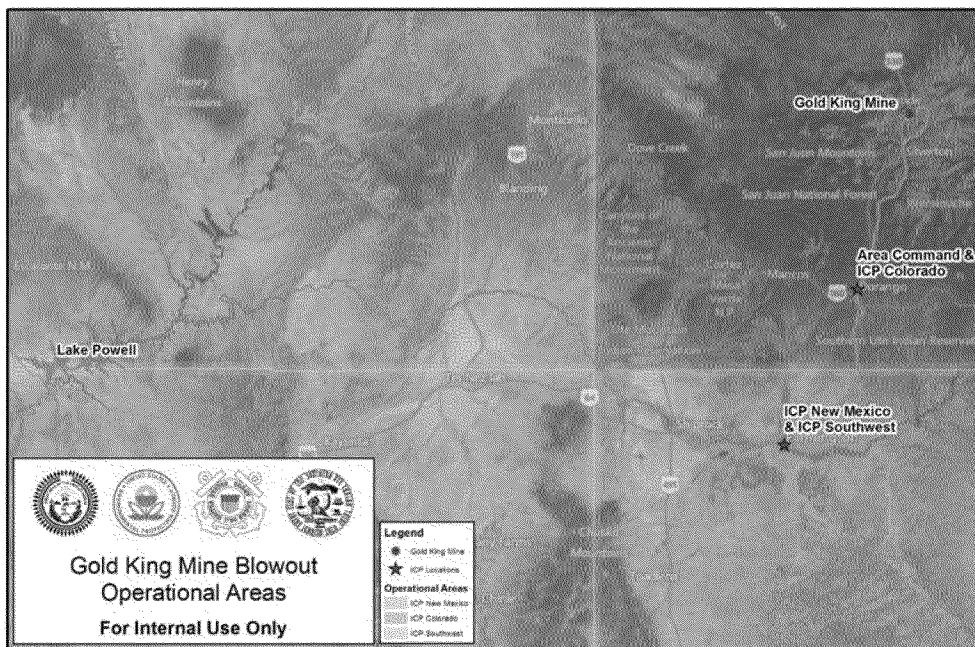


U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
AREA COMMAND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY / SITUATION REPORT  
2015 Gold King Mine Release



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Area Command (EPA Regions 8, 6, and 9)



EXECSUM / SITREP #4  
Gold King Mine Release

Subject:

San Juan County, Colorado  
Latitude: 37.8945 Longitude: -107.6384

From: Area Command Situation Unit

Date: 08/15/2015

Reporting Period: 08/14/2015 0700 through 08/15/2015 0700

Website: [www.epa.gov/goldkingmine](http://www.epa.gov/goldkingmine)

## **Executive Summary**

For Internal Use Only  
Gold King Mine Release  
EPA Executive Summary: August 15, 2015 1900

### **Situation Summary**

EPA Area Command (AC), comprised of EPA Regions 6, 8, and 9 is continuing strategic management over the three Unified Incident Command Posts (ICPs).

### **Highlights, Key Updates/Changes**

- AC staff participated on several conference calls with EPA Administrators to discuss and come to agreement on messaging related to EPA Region 9's release of surface water sampling data from 11 river locations within the Navajo Nation.
- The AC Safety Officer conducted a site visit at the Gold King Mine Site near Silverton, CO with the Region 8 ICP Safety Officer.
- AC approved and released Area Command Operations Guide #3.
- New Mexico announced its decision initiating a plan for the flushing of irrigation ditches along the Animas River. The irrigation ditches will be flushed for 12 hours before normal irrigation and livestock watering operations can resume.
- Area Command transitioned leadership roles to Chris Ruhl, Region 6 as Area Commander and Steve Calanog, Region 9 as Deputy Area Commander.

### **Area Command Emphasis**

For the next operational period, the AC command's emphasis will be:

- Positive and professional communications.
- Response documentation and right-sizing guidance.
- Preparation for visits scheduled next week by Congressional members and OSWER Headquarters personnel.
- Plan to consolidate data from the various call centers and establish a central database for this call data.
- Fatigue of response and IMT personnel and to provide CISM.
- Safety risk management and mitigation practices.

Note: The metrics provided in this SITREP represent quantities reported in the EPA Regions 6, 8, and 9 SITREPs for work completed on Saturday, August 15, 2015.

## 1.0 Operations

### 1.1 Sampling Operations

Operations sampling activities for August 14, 2015 are summarized below.

**Table 1 □ Operation Sampling Summary as of August 14, 2015**

| <b>Matrix</b>                | <b>Region</b> | <b>August 14, 2015</b> | <b>Cumulative for Response*</b> |
|------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Private Drinking Water Wells | Region 8      | 19                     | 130                             |
|                              | Region 6      | 34                     | 146                             |
|                              | Region 9      | 0                      | 0                               |
| Surface Water Samples        | Region 8      | 6                      | 86                              |
|                              | Region 6      | 10                     | 74                              |
|                              | Region 9      | 12                     | 65                              |
| Sediment Samples             | Region 8      | 3                      | 36                              |
|                              | Region 6      | 36                     | 94                              |
|                              | Region 9      | 12                     | 44                              |

\*Note: Cumulative totals include field samples and QA/QC samples

### 1.2 Water Distribution and Transportation Branch

Area Command continues to monitor potable water, agricultural water, and agricultural food deliveries. These activities are summarized below.

**Table 2 □ Public Support Summary**

| Activity                                  | Region   | August 14, 2015 |           | Cumulative |           |
|---|----------|-----------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
|   |          | Deliveries      | Quantity* | Deliveries | Quantity* |
| Potable Water Deliveries                  | Region 8 | 0               | 0         | 12         | 87,400    |
|   | Region 6 | 0               | 0         | 0          | 0         |
|   | Region 9 | 0**             | 0**       | 0**        | 0**       |
| Livestock / Agricultural Water Deliveries | Region 8 | 0               | 0         | 43         | 113,830   |
|   | Region 6 | 16              | 328,914   | 37         | 909,207   |
|   | Region 9 | 0               | 0         | NR         | 208,000   |
| Agricultural Food Deliveries              | Region 8 | 0               | 0         | 0          | 0         |
|   | Region 6 | NR              | NR        | NR         | NR        |
|   | Region 9 | 1               | 384       | 0          | 0         |

Notes: NR- Not reported.

\* Water quantities are reported in gallons, food quantities are reported in bales.

\*\*Water deliveries in Region 9 are being handled by the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority.

### 1.3 Community Engagements

Community engagements reported for August 14, 2014 are presented below:

**Table 3 - Community Engagement Summary**

| August 14, 2014       |          |   |
|-----------------------|----------|---|
| Community Engagements | Region 8 | 1 |
|                       | Region 6 | 1 |
|                       | Region 9 | 2 |

### 1.4 Community Relations Branch

EPA Region 8- On August 14, 2015, their regional call center received **40** calls. As of 5:00 pm on August 14, 2015, their regional call center (970-385-8700) had received a total of **708** calls.

EPA Region 6- On August 14, 2015 the toll-free call-in number received **12** inquiries.

EPA Region 9- On August 14, 2015, their call center received **4** calls.

## 2.0 Drinking Water System Impacts

Drinking water systems affected by the response as of August 14, 2015, and their status are summarized below:

**Table 4 □ Public Support Summary**

| <b>Region</b> | <b>Number of Affected Water Systems</b> | <b>Population</b> | <b>Status</b>                       |
|---------------|---|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Region 8      | 0                                       | 0                 | All systems currently in operation. |
| Region 6      | 8                                       | 80,392            | All systems currently in operation. |
| Region 9      | 0                                       | 0                 | All systems currently in operation. |

## 3.0 Finance

Estimated total costs for the response as of August 15, 2015 are summarized below:

**Table 5 □ Estimated Response Costs Reported as of August 15, 2015**

| <b>Item</b>                                   | <b>Cost</b>        |
|---|--------------------|
| EPA Region 8 Payroll Costs                    | \$472,721          |
| EPA Region 8 Travel Costs                     | \$55,399           |
| EPA Region 8 Contracts                        | \$215,494          |
| EPA Region 6 Payroll Costs                    | \$236,640          |
| EPA Region 6 Travel Costs                     | \$28,750           |
| EPA Region 6 Contracts                        | \$790,321          |
| EPA Region 9 Payroll Costs                    | \$115,200          |
| EPA Region 9 Travel Costs                     | \$30,000           |
| EPA Region 9 Contracts                        | \$263,000          |
| Other Costs                                   | \$67,000           |
| <b>Total Estimated Response Costs to Date</b> | <b>\$2,274,525</b> |

#### **4.0 Participating Entities**

Federal, regional, local and other participating entities participating in the response are summarized below.

##### **Region 8**

US EPA  
USFWS  
US Coast Guard  
ERT  
Colorado OEM  
Southern Ute Tribe  
La Plata County  
San Juan County  
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)  
Southwest IMT  
City of Durango  
Durango Fire Department  
San Juan County Health Department

##### **Region 6**

US EPA  
USFWS  
NMED  
ATSDR  
NM Department of Health  
NM Office of the State Engineer  
NM Department of Game and Fish  
County of San Juan ☐ New Mexico

##### **Region 9**

US EPA  
US Coast Guard  
Navajo Nation

#### **5.0 Personnel On-Site**

Staffing numbers for the federal entities and agencies active in the response are summarized below.

**Table 6 - Personnel On-Site as of August 14, 2015**

| <b>Region</b> | <b>Agency / Entity</b>                           | <b>Number of Personnel</b> |
|---------------|--|----------------------------|
| Area Command  | U.S. EPA   | 13                         |
|               | US. EPA Contractors                              | 2                          |
|               | U.S. Coast Guard                                 | 3                          |
| EPA Region 8  | U.S. EPA Region 8                                | 52                         |
|               | US. EPA Region 8 Contractors                     | 39                         |
|               | U.S. Coast Guard                                 | 3                          |
|               | Other Federal, State, Local, and Tribal Entities | 68                         |
| EPA Region 6  | U.S. EPA Region 6                                | 45                         |
|               | US. EPA Region 6 Contractors                     | 38                         |
|               | U.S. Coast Guard                                 | 2                          |
|               | Other Federal, State, Local, and Tribal Entities | Not Reported               |
| EPA Region 9  | U.S. EPA Region 9                                | 10                         |
|               | US. EPA Region 9 Contractors                     | 10                         |
|               | U.S. Coast Guard                                 | 6                          |
|               | Other Federal, State, Local, and Tribal Entities | 3                          |
|               | <b>Total</b>                                     | <b>294</b>                 |

**6.0 Source of Additional Information**

For additional information, refer to [www.epa.gov/goldkingmine](http://www.epa.gov/goldkingmine)

**ATTACHMENT 1**  
**PRESS RELEASES**



**EPA Statement regarding NM decision to resume irrigation and livestock watering operations- (Effective 8/15/2015)**

New Mexico announced its decision initiation a plan for the flushing of irrigation ditches along the Animas River. The irrigation ditches will be flushed for 12 hours before normal irrigation and livestock watering operations can resume.

Flushing of irrigation ditches and resuming irrigation and livestock watering operations is a state and local decision. EPA sampling results from the river collected last week similarly show that water quality conditions are returning toward pre-event conditions.

We know the state has gone through a deliberative process in making this decision. EPA will continue to sample, analyze, and make data available to support local decision makers moving forward to allow them to make the best informed decisions.

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 15, 2015

# **U.S. EPA Update on Gold King Mine Response Efforts for August 15, 2015**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is committed to working closely with response agencies and state and local officials to ensure public safety, respond to concerns and evaluate impact to water contaminated by the spill. Today EPA provided the following updates:

### **The Last 24 Hours**

New Mexico announced its determination that private domestic water well use along the Animas River can resume based on water quality sampling results collected by both the New Mexico Environment Department and U.S. EPA. EPA and NMED collected 34 water quality samples from private domestic wells yesterday.

### **Mine Discharge Treatment**

The Gold King Mine is releasing water at the rate of approximately 600 gallons per minute. Water continues to be treated at a series of settling ponds before being discharged to Cement Creek.

### **Plume**

EPA is collecting water and sediment samples from Lake Powell near the outlet of the San Juan River, where we believe the contaminants may have reached. EPA expects no significant impacts to Lake Powell associated with the Gold King Mine release.

### **Unified EPA Area Command in Durango, Colorado**

The results of EPA sediment samples collected in the Animas River from Bakers Bridge to north of Durango were released on August 14. EPA's review of data indicates metals concentrations in sediment are generally consistent with pre-release levels. Slightly elevated results for some metals were compared to risk-based screening levels. No results exceeded recreational screening levels. Water quality data show the water meets criteria for agricultural purposes established by the state of Colorado. Irrigation ditches that impacted crops and livestock are being flushed and

coming back online to meet water needs. On Aug. 14, the City of Durango opened its drinking water intakes in the Animas River and reopened the river for recreational use. EPA, state and local response teams continue to evaluate water quality in shallow domestic wells adjacent to the Animas River.

### **Unified Incident Command in Farmington, New Mexico**

For New Mexico, EPA has a team of 83 employees consisting of federal on-scene coordinators, water quality experts, technicians and contractors supporting the response to the spill. Daily information meetings at the Farmington Convention Center have been suspended for the weekend and will resume on Monday, Aug. 17.

EPA continues to collect water quality samples from nine locations in the river near intakes for Aztec, Farmington, Lower Valley Water Users Association, Morning Star Water Supply System and the North Star Water User Association. EPA will continue to sample, analyze, and make data available to support local decision makers moving forward to allow them to make the best-informed decisions. EPA validated sampling data for the Animas and San Juan Rivers from the Northern Border of New Mexico to Navajo Nation collected from Aug. 9 to Aug. 10, 2015.

EPA also continues to collect daily water quality samples from 11 locations in the Navajo Nation, from Hogback to Mexican Hat. Starting today, the EPA, in coordination with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, will double agricultural water deliveries to approximately 100,000 gallons per day to various locations. The agency continues to work very closely with the Navajo Nation EPA, going house to house to answer questions.

New Mexico announced its decision initiating a plan for the flushing of irrigation ditches along the Animas River. The irrigation ditches will be flushed for 12 hours before normal irrigation and livestock watering operations can resume today. EPA delivered 328,914 gallons of water to seven agricultural and nine livestock locations. There are currently twenty trucks delivering water.

### **EPA Staff Deployed**

EPA has deployed more than 210 employees and contractors for the response. The U.S. Coast Guard has provided 14 responders. There are also currently at least 20 different federal, state and local agencies

involved in the response working to help ensure the health and safety of the public.

## Claims Process Update

A claims process exists for compensating citizens who suffer personal injury or property damage caused by U.S. government actions. The process is available in EPA's regulations at 40 CFR Part 10, and includes guidance on documentation that may be required to support claims for loss of employment and loss of income, among other claims.

Claims for monetary compensation may be filed by submitting a Standard Form 95 specifying the nature of the loss suffered and EPA actions, if known, causing the loss or damage to property.

EPA is not offering immediate reimbursements for damages from the Gold King Mine water and it is not true that someone submitting a claim limits or waives his or her future rights.

EPA's Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) regulation provides that a person may amend their claim form at any time prior to reaching a settlement with EPA, or before the person files a lawsuit under the FTCA. Additionally, a person claiming an injury or damage has two years from the date of the event to file a claim with EPA under the FTCA. (40 CFR Part 10).

Standard Form 95 is **not required to present a claim under the FTCA, but it is a convenient format for supplying the information necessary to bring an FTCA claim.** Please note that a completed form must state a claim for money damages in a "sum certain" amount (that is, a specific amount) claimed for personal injury, death, or injury to or loss of property. In addition, if a sum certain is not specified in Standard Form 95 block 12d, or in accompanying information, a submission cannot be considered a valid presentation of a claim.

Although EPA's regulations state that it has six months to resolve a claim, EPA will make every effort to respond to Gold King Mine release claims as soon as possible. Claims must be presented to EPA within two years after the claim accrues.

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 15, 2015

### **U.S. EPA Statement on San Juan River Data from Gold King Mine Release**

**SHIPROCK, NEW MEXICO** □ Today, U.S. EPA released additional water quality data from Aug. 7 to Aug. 9, 2015, on the San Juan River between Farmington and Shiprock, New Mexico. The August 7 data was collected for baseline purposes to understand river conditions at the Hogback monitoring location, prior to the impact of the upstream contaminants from the Gold King Mine release

To assess the impacts of the release at the Gold King Mine, water quality samples were collected at four locations for 24 metals. Each surface water sample was analyzed for metals including arsenic, cadmium, lead and mercury.

Due to the highly variable conditions typical of this segment of the river, additional testing will be conducted, and we continue to work closely with the Navajo Nation EPA on assessing drinking water, agriculture, livestock, and other critical water needs.

More information here:

<http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine/gold-king-mine-data-august-15-2015>

<http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine/epa-statement-water-quality-data-collected-san-juan-river-between-farmington-and>

For additional information on the response to the Gold King Mine release  
[www.epa.gov/goldkingmine](http://www.epa.gov/goldkingmine)

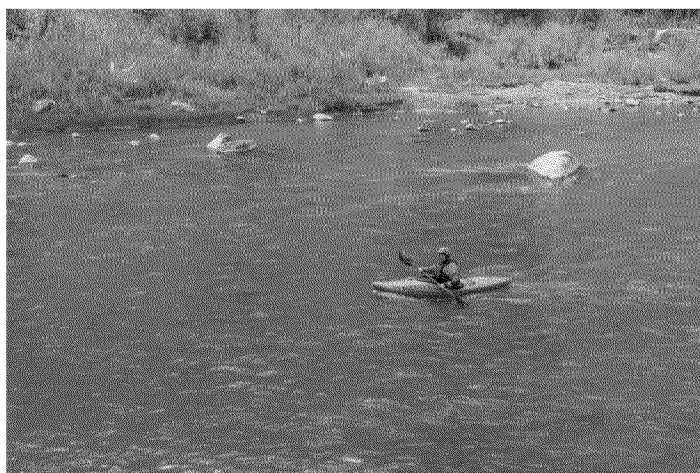
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**ATTACHMENT 2**  
**REGIONAL SITUATION REPORTS**

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
2015 Gold King Mine Release SITREP



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region 8



**Subject:** Situation Report #7  
Gold King Mine Release  
San Juan County, CO  
Latitude: 37.8945 Longitude: -107.6384

**From:** Durango Unified Command (Situation Unit)

**Date:** 08/15/2015  
**Reporting Period:** 08/14/2015 through 08/14/2015  
**Website:** <http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine>

New information included in the SITREP is in bold text.

## Executive Summary

On August 5, while investigating the Gold King Mine in Colorado, an EPA cleanup team triggered a release of mine wastewater into Cement Creek. The EPA is working closely with responders and local, state and tribal officials to monitor water contaminated by the release. The release's path flows through three of the EPA's regions - Region 8 (Colorado, Utah, Southern Ute Indian Tribe lands, and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe lands); Region 6 (New Mexico), and Region 9 (Navajo Nation). The EPA has activated its Emergency Operations System to ensure coordination among its regions, laboratories and national program offices in Washington, D.C. A Unified Command has been established in Durango CO, which includes the EPA, State of Colorado Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Southern Ute Indian Tribe, La Plata County, and San Juan Basin Health Department. **The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe is an Administrative Agency in the UC. The EPA has established an Area Command in Durango CO, and that covers the Incident Command Post (ICP) Colorado (Colorado Unified Command), ICP New Mexico (New Mexico Unified Command), and the ICP South West (South West Unified Command).**

### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1 Background

|                            |                   |                            |                  |
|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Site Number:</b>        | <b>A8K9RV</b>     | <b>Contract Number:</b>    |                  |
| <b>D.O. Number:</b>        |                   | <b>Action Memo Date:</b>   |                  |
| <b>Response Authority:</b> | <b>CERCLA</b>     | <b>Response Type:</b>      | <b>Emergency</b> |
| <b>Response Lead:</b>      | <b>EPA</b>        | <b>Incident Category:</b>  |                  |
| <b>NPL Status:</b>         | <b>not listed</b> | <b>Operable Unit:</b>      |                  |
| <b>Mobilization Date:</b>  | <b>08/05/2015</b> | <b>Start Date:</b>         | <b>08/05/15</b>  |
| <b>Demob Date:</b>         | <b>TBD</b>        | <b>Completion Date:</b>    |                  |
| <b>CERCLIS ID:</b>         |                   | <b>RCRIS ID:</b>           |                  |
| <b>ERNS No.:</b>           |                   | <b>State Notification:</b> | <b>08/05/15</b>  |

The La Plata County Sheriff issued an order closing the Animas River to all watercraft from the north County line (San Juan County, Colorado) to the south County line (at the Colorado/New Mexico State line) until further notice.

**The La Plata County Sheriff reopened the Animas River to recreational use at 12:00 pm on Friday August 14, 2015. The decision was made in conjunction with the San Juan Basin Public Health Department, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and the EPA. The Sheriff's order reopening the river was accompanied by a Health Advisory from San Juan Basin Health Department and CDPHE, which provides additional information to recreational users of the river. The public health advisory is attached to this SITREP.**

##### 1.1.1.1 Incident Category

##### 1.1.2 Site Description

The Gold King Mine near Silverton, Colorado is a historic gold mine at approximately 11,300' elevation. The mine has a continuous discharge of acidic mine drainage that is a significant contributor of manganese, zinc, copper, and cadmium into the Cement Creek drainage of the



Animas River watershed. The Gold King Mine has not had maintenance of the mine workings since 1991, and the workings have been inaccessible since 1995 when the mine portal collapsed.

The EPA Region 8 has been investigating the conditions to assess the on-going releases and incremental de-watering and removal of blockages to prevent blowouts.

**At 2 pm on Friday, August 14 2015, the City of Durango resumed pumping water from the Animas River for further treatment. This decision was made in conjunction with the CDPHE. The City will continue to analyze water quality samples, based on pre-established protocols. The City has also lifted the outdoor irrigation restrictions, and encourages responsible outdoor irrigation.**

**1.1.2.1 Location** - San Juan County, Colorado, La Plata County, Colorado, Southern Ute Indian Reservation and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe reservation.

#### **1.1.2.2 Description of Threat**

Mine waste water was released into Cement Creek and the Animas River. The volume of the release based on US Geological Survey (USGS) Cement Creek gaging station is estimated at three million gallons. The initial environmental concern was the pulse of contaminated water containing sediment and metals discharged in Cement Creek which flows into the Animas River through Durango, Colorado, and into New Mexico where it joins the San Juan River before flowing into Utah. The City of Durango relies on the Animas River as one of its main water sources - the Animas source is off-line. The river is also used for recreational purposes, including fishing and rafting, and is an important cultural resource for the Navajo Nation.

The leading edge of the release passed through Durango, Colorado, on Friday, August 7, 2015, and on August 8, 2015, it crossed the border into New Mexico where it eventually discharged into the San Juan River.

#### **1.1.3 Site Inspection Results**

Aerial and ground reconnaissance indicates that the plume associated with the Gold King Mine release has dissipated downstream and there is no leading edge of contamination visible in downstream sections of the San Juan River or Lake Powell.

The EPA is collecting and assessing water quality from Cement Creek and the Animas daily. Water sampling is occurring, and pH levels and dissolved concentrations of metals are being monitored.

## **1.2 Incident Objectives**

- Continue private water well call tracking, follow up actions and owner communications.
- Continue sampling plan and develop strategy to evaluate and mitigate risks due to sediment in the river.
- Continue river assessment through sediment and water sampling.
- Continue management of adit discharge and develop call down verification (CDPHE).
- Effectively communicate with public and stakeholders utilizing a multi-faceted communication strategy to disseminate results.
- Ensure health and safety of the public and response management personnel.
- Develop a means to assess the economic impact upon affected communities
- Coordinate with the Colorado Division of Water and Natural Resources and other stakeholders to assess and flush ditches.
- Provide water of appropriate quality for specified use.
- Continued coordination with the Department of Agriculture (including state and local veterinarians) and the Colorado Extension.
- Maintain stability of mine road to ensure access.
- Prepare for mine dump stabilization.
- Amend field sampling plan to include assessment of remote areas of the canyon, execute when ready.
- Develop a medium term groundwater assessment monitoring transition plan.
- Develop medium term river monitoring plan to provide notification, warning and understanding to the public on longer term basis.
- Begin demobilization communications.

## **1.3 Critical Resource Needs**

All resources are being tracked by the Resources Unit. Resources for the response continue to be ordered as needed to fill critical resource needs.

## **1.4 Strategic Considerations**

United group of specialist to advise policy makers.

## **2. Current Activities**

### **2.1 Operations Section**

#### **2.1.1 Response Actions to Date**

A Colorado Unified Command (UC) post in Durango was established. The UC includes EPA, State of Colorado Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Southern Ute Indian Tribe, La Plata County, and San Juan Basin Health Department. The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and San Juan County CO are also in regular communication with Unified Command. The EPA Regions 6 and 9 have established incident command posts in Farmington, New Mexico that cover New Mexico

and the Navajo Nation response areas. A JIC was established and is providing support for both the UC and the AC.

Daily residential well sampling and Animas River water quality continues at seven locations. Sediment samples on 8/14/2015 were taken from the intake of Animas-La Plata Nighthorse Reservoir. The count of samples by media for 8/14/2-14 is listed in the following table:

| Matrix        | Sample Date | Number of Samples |
|---------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Potable Water | 14-Aug-15   | 19                |
| Sediment      | 14-Aug-15   | 3                 |
| Surface Water | 14-Aug-15   | 6                 |

Out of 62 groundwater well results, there were four wells that exceeded drinking water standards MCL's for lead and arsenic. However, these samples were taken from the well head prior to going through the home treatment systems. Sampling of tap water from these residents is being scheduled as of this report. . There is no indication that the release had impacted these wells.

Call center totals are provided in the following table:

|                            | 8/14 | To Date Total |
|----------------------------|------|---------------|
| Well Water Test Scheduling | 18   | 332           |
| Water Concerns             | 9    | 99            |
| Health Concerns            | 3    | 31            |
| Recreation                 | 0    | 20            |
| Ecological Concerns        | 1    | 17            |
| Livestock/Irrigation       | 1    | 17            |
| Tourism/Media              | 1    | 52            |
| Volunteer Offers           | 1    | 21            |
| General Concerns           | 6    | 119           |
| <b>Daily Totals:</b>       | 40   | 708           |

Bottle water shipments from local suppliers have been occurring daily and distributed as requested.

The Animas Consolidated Irrigation Ditch and Reid Irrigation Ditch fully open and being used for irrigation. **On 8/14/2015 other irrigation ditches, excluding the Animas Valley ditch, were open and are being used for irrigation. Ditch and property assessments (such as ponds with inlets to the river) continue.**

**Non-Potable water distribution as of 8-14:**

**Total deliveries: 43 (repeat deliveries)**

**Approx. 113,830 Gallons**

Due to Animas Consolidated being open and the press release, no new deliveries were made. People were informed of the new information.

**Stakeholders:**

- Cattle & Horse Farms
- Nursery
- Fish Hatchery/Fish Ponds
- Commercial organic produce farm
- One operation, we have set up pumping and filtration from river to fill fish ponds.

**Potable Water Delivery as of 8-14:**

**Total Deliveries: 12 (Repeats)**

**No New Deliveries.**

**87,400 gallons**

**Stakeholders:**

- Single Family Home cisterns.
- Multiple family homes on neighborhood cistern.

1120 cases of bottled water have been purchased to hand out to community.

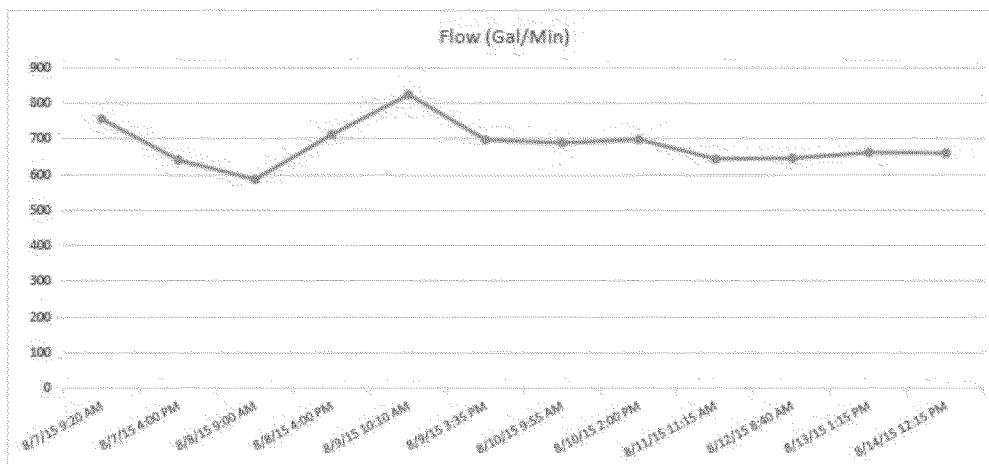
The CDPHE, and public water systems regulated by CDPHE in the impacted area, are taking raw and finished water samples to monitor water quality. **City of Durango in coordination with CDPHE has resumed pumping water from the Animas River for their water treatment plant.**

CDPHE has staff in area and continued collecting the Animas River surface water and sediment sampling. Also continued outreach to public water supply system operators.

**Gold King Mine Site**

The EPA continues to operate four treatment and sedimentation ponds at the mine site which are treating water by lowering acidity levels and removing dissolved metals. A technical expert from CDPHE is assisting at the Gold King Mine site in optimizing the water quality treatment system.

Flow from the mine through the morning of 8/14/2015 is shown in the following chart.



Treated water from the last treatment pond is discharging into Cement Creek. Flow data out of the mine is being collected manually two times per day. Water quality data is being collected at the influent and effluent of the treatment system as well.

### 2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

Sampling of the seven data points on the river will continue. **The EPA has four sampling teams; one surface water and four well water in the field on 8/15/2015.**

**Ditch and property assessments will continue with focus on whether any mitigation of private properties need to be completed.**

Sampling procedures and a sampling plan are being established and shared with all relevant parties to ensure consistency.

**The call center is being integrated into the UC Joint Information Center (JIC) as of 8/15/2015.**

### 2.2.1.2 Next Steps

### 2.2.2 Issues

## 2.3 Logistics Section

- Two additional Polygon conference phones were delivered and installed in Area Command and conference rooms.
- JIC experienced Share point software issues with speeds, it was resolved.
- All Communications and IT systems are up and running.

## **2.4 Finance Section**

### **2.4.1 Narrative**

Payroll, travel, and contracts for the three EPA regions has been consolidated and burn rates determined from the available information. Finance is awaiting final numbers for input into this cost analysis.

## **2.5 Other Command Staff**

### **2.5.1 Safety Officer**

As operations continue into the weekend, please take a minute to de-stress and rest. Fatigue and driving safety are still a top priority so be conscious of your health and look out for your coworkers as we continue to press forward.

### **2.5.2 Liaison Officer**

No report.

### **2.5.3 Information Officer**

At noon on 8/14/2015, a joint news release was issued announcing that the County Sherriff opened the Animas River to recreational activities.

The Southern Ute Tribe is holding a public meeting is also being held Saturday, August 15, at 3 pm at Sunside Elementary School.

### **2.5.4 Weather Forecast**

**Weather forecast for August 15 and 16, 2015:**

#### **DURANGO AREA**

##### **Today**

Isolated showers and thunderstorms after 11am. Mostly sunny, with a high near 90. Light and variable wind becoming west northwest 5 to 10 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

##### **Tonight**

Isolated showers and thunderstorms before 8pm. Partly cloudy, with a low around 56. Northwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming north northeast after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

##### **Sunday**

A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 93. Light and variable wind becoming west 10 to 15 mph in the afternoon.

##### **Sunday Night**

A 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Partly cloudy, with a low around 56. West wind 5 to 15 mph becoming northeast after midnight.

## **SILVERTON AREA**

### **Today**

Isolated showers and thunderstorms after 8am. Partly sunny, with a high near 73. Light west wind increasing to 5 to 10 mph in the morning. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

### **Tonight**

Isolated showers and thunderstorms before 9pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 43. West wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

### **Sunday**

A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after noon. Partly sunny, with a high near 76. Light and variable wind becoming west 5 to 10 mph in the morning.

### **Sunday Night**

A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Partly cloudy, with a low around 43. Northwest wind around 5 mph becoming calm after midnight.

## **3. Participating Entities**

### **3.1 Area Command**

**The AC includes EPA Regions 6, 8 and 9, through the three unified commands: Colorado UC, New Mexico UC, and South West UC.** The EPA Region 6 is working closely with the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) and the EPA Region 9 is working with the Navajo Nation. **The AC is completing daily Executive Summary updates on AC activities.**

### **3.2 Unified Command and Cooperating Agencies**

The UC includes EPA, State of Colorado Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Southern Ute Indian Tribe, La Plata County, San Juan Basin Health Department. The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe will likely join during the next operational period.

The City of Durango and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe are involved through via their agency representatives. San Juan County is an Agency Administrator.

The EPA Region 8 is coordinating with Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) in response to public health concerns/questions associated with the mine waste plume. ATSDR has been in communication with local health officials at San Juan County Basin Health Department in Colorado. Public health questions should be directed to Chris Poulet, ATSDR.

#### 4. Personnel On Site

| Gold King Mine Release 2015            |                     |
|--|---------------------|
|  | 08/14/2015          |
| Group                                  | Number              |
| EPA @ REOC                             | 0 (24 on call 8/14) |
| Contractors @ REOC                     | 0                   |
| EPA in Field (R8)                      | 28                  |
| Contractors in Field (R8)              | 31                  |
| EPA Laboratory                         | 0                   |
| Contractors Laboratory                 | 7                   |
| USCG                                   | 14                  |
| ERT                                    | 1                   |
| <b>Subtotal EPA Region 8 Resources</b> | <b>106</b>          |
| Colorado OEM                           | 3                   |
| Southern Ute Tribe                     | 6                   |
| La Plata County                        | 15                  |
| San Juan County                        | 3                   |
| CDPHE                                  | 10                  |
| Southwest IMT                          | 6                   |
| City of Durango                        | 12                  |
| Durango Fire                           | 2                   |
| San Juan basin Health Dept.            | 5                   |
| Ute Mountain Ute Tribe                 | 1                   |
| US Bureau of Reclamation               | 1                   |
| US Bureau of Indian Affairs            | 1                   |
| Grand Junciton Fire                    | 1                   |
| Mountain Studies Institute             | 1                   |
| ATSDR                                  | 1                   |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <b>181</b>          |

#### 5. Definition of Terms –

ATSDR= Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

EPA = United States Environmental Protection Agency

CERCLA = Comprehensive Environmental Responsibility, Compensation and Liability Act

CDPHE = Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

USGS = United States Geological Survey

UC = Unified Command (Comprised of Southern Ute Indian Tribe, La Plata County, San Juan Basin Health Dept, EPA, State of Colorado OEM)

UCP = Unified Command Post

AC = Area Command (Comprised of EPA Regions 6, 8 and 9)

NMED = New Mexico Environment Department



BIA = Bureau of Indian Affairs  
BOR = Bureau of Reclamation  
COEM = Colorado Office of Emergency Management  
CDPW = Colorado Department of Parks and Wildlife  
SWIMT = South West Incident Management Team  
MSDS = Material Safety Data Sheet  
PPE = Personal Protective Equipment  
USCG = United States Coast Guard  
ERT = EPA Emergency Response Team  
REOC = EPA Regional Emergency Operations Center

**6. Additional sources of information** – <http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine>

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Gold King Mine Spill - Region 6**



**EPA Field Team collecting surface water samples**

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region VI**

**Subject: POLREP #8  
Gold King Mine Spill - Region 6**

**Various New Mexico locations, NM  
Latitude: 36.8374600 Longitude: -107.9916800**

**From: Ronnie Crossland, Region 6 Regional Incident Commander (RIC)**

**Date: 8/15/2015**

**Reporting Period: 8/14/2015 0700 – 8/14/2015 1900**

## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 Description of Threat**

Region 8 reported approximately three million gallons of mine waste water was released into Cement Creek and the Animas River. The primary environmental concern is the pulse of contaminated water containing sediment and metals flowing as an orange-colored discharge downstream through Durango, Colorado, and into New Mexico and Utah.

### **1.2 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results**

Water monitoring and sampling is ongoing at public water supply intakes and private wells and field pH levels and other water quality parameters are being monitored.

## **2. Current Activities**

Headquarters has established a joint website at [www.epa.gov/goldkingmine](http://www.epa.gov/goldkingmine).

Created a new general public call-in number for Regions 6, 8, and 9: 844 – 607 – 9700.

### **2.1 Operations Section**

NMED informed EPA that the Town of Morningstar's reserve had dropped drastically and the Town only had an estimated 48 hours of available supply, as of August 14, 2015. EPA is acting quickly to mobilize a temporary pump to facilitate an emergency connection between Farmington and Morningstar.

On August 14, 2015, NMED and the Department of Health lifted the ban on using private water wells.

EPA will not hold any community meetings on Saturday, August 15, 2015, or Sunday, August 16, 2015. Community meetings will resume on Monday, August 17, 2015.

#### Private Drinking Water Well Sampling

EPA is processing requests received from New Mexico residents for approximately seventy private drinking water well samples that will be analyzed for total metals, dissolved metals, major cations/anions, and nitrate. EPA will finish the requests for private water well samples that have already been received but will not accept any new sampling requests. There are twenty-five requests remaining and EPA will finish the requests on August 15, 2015.

On August 14, 2015, EPA collected thirty-four private drinking water well samples.

Southside Mutual Domestic and Flora Vista water systems have requested that EPA sample their public water supply wells before the systems resume operations. EPA will collect the four samples requested on August 15, 2015.

#### Drinking Water Technical Support/Pretreatment/Connections

Morningstar has approximately forty-eight hours of water supply remaining. Morningstar and Farmington are working on connecting their water systems. EPA has ordered holding tanks. EPA estimates the connection will be completed on August 17, 2015. The pump left Houston mid-day on August 14, 2015, and is on the way to Morningstar. EPA is looking into having New Mexico and Texas waive the need for the truck to stop at weighing stations and to have law enforcement escort for the truck.

#### Irrigation Ditch Sediment Sampling

On August 14, 2015, EPA collected twenty-six irrigation ditch sediment samples.

#### Surface Water and Sediment Sampling

On August 14, 2015, EPA collected ten surface water and sediment samples.

On August 14, 2015, EPA received validated data for nine surface water and sediment samples taken on August 11, 2015. On August 14, 2015, EPA received preliminary data for six surface water and sediment samples taken on August 13, 2015,

#### Agriculture and Livestock Water

On August 14, 2015, EPA delivered water to seven agriculture and nine livestock locations, totaling 328,914 gallons. Since August 11, 2015, EPA has made deliveries to 20 agriculture and 17 livestock locations, totaling 909,207 gallons. There are currently twenty trucks delivering water.

On August 13, 2015, EPA received a request for fifteen bales of Alfalfa grass. On August 14, 2015, EPA received a request for 244 bales of hay. EPA is working on meeting these requests.

### Drinking Water Systems Update

Based on conversation with the State of New Mexico and drinking water systems on August 12, 2015, the following is the list of affected water systems and their status:

| <b>System Name</b>              | <b>Population</b> | <b># Days Water Available</b>       |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Aztec Domestic Water System     | 6800              | 10 days                             |
| Farmington Water System         | 47000             | 60 days                             |
| Lower Valley WUA                | 8428              | 6 days                              |
| Morningstar Water Supply System | 6423              | 48 hours *                          |
| Northstar WDWCA                 | 4123              | 30 days                             |
| Southside Mutual Domestic       | 1593              | 3 - 5 days/get water from Aztec     |
| Upper La Plata WUA              | 2265              | Get water from Aztec and Farmington |
| Flora Vista                     | 4300              | 1 day/get water from Aztec          |
| <b>Total Population</b>         | <b>80,392</b>     |                                     |

\* The Morningstar Water Supply System information is updated as of August 14, 2015. For more information, see the Operations Section.

## **2.2 Finance Section**

### **Daily Cost Estimates Report**

| <b>Funding Source</b> | <b>EPA Expended Payroll</b> | <b>EPA Expended Travel</b> | <b>Contract Costs</b> | <b>TOTAL Expended</b> | <b>Estimated Daily Burn Rate</b> |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>EPA</b>            | <b>\$128,805</b>            | <b>\$28,750</b>            | <b>\$1,854</b>        | <b>\$790,321</b>      | <b>\$949,730</b>                 |

### 3. Participating Entities in Region 6

US EPA  
USFWS  
NMED  
ATSDR  
NM Department of Health  
NM Office of the State Engineer  
NM Department of Game and Fish  
County of San Juan – New Mexico

### 4. Personnel

| Group  | Number |
|--|--------|
| Region 6 EPA @ REOC                          | 23     |
| Region 6 Contractors @ REOC                  | 5      |
|  |        |
| Region 6 Staff in JIC – Durango, CO          | 1      |
| Region 6 Staff in Area Command – Durango, CO | 1      |
| Region 6 RIC – Farmington, NM                | 1      |
| Region 6 Logistics – Farmington, NM          | 1      |
| Region 6 Water Liaison – Santa Fe, NM        | 1      |
| Region 6 EPA OSC                             | 5      |
| Region 6/7 Water Technicians                 | 12     |
| Region 6 Contractors in Field                | 33     |

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
 POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
 San Juan River Response - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
 Region IX

**Subject:** POLREP #3  
 San Juan River Response

Shiprock, NM  
 Latitude: 36.8704828 Longitude: -108.7892506

**To:** Robert Wise, EPA Region 9

**From:** Kathleen Dillon, Situation Unit Leader

**Date:** 8/15/2015

**Reporting Period:**

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

|                            |                                |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Site Number:</b>        | <b>Contract Number:</b>        |
| <b>D.O. Number:</b>        | <b>Action Memo Date:</b>       |
| <b>Response Authority:</b> | <b>Response Type:</b>          |
| <b>Response Lead:</b>      | <b>Incident Category:</b>      |
| <b>NPL Status:</b>         | <b>Operable Unit:</b>          |
| <b>Mobilization Date:</b>  | <b>Start Date:</b>             |
| <b>Demob Date:</b>         | <b>Completion Date:</b>        |
| <b>CERCLIS ID:</b>         | <b>RCRIS ID:</b>               |
| <b>ERNS No.:</b>           | <b>State Notification:</b>     |
| <b>FPN#:</b>               | <b>Reimbursable Account #:</b> |

#### 1.1.1 Incident Category

#### 1.1.2 Site Description

The Gold King Mine near Silverton, Colorado is a historic gold mine at approximately 11,300' elevation. The mine has a continuous discharge of acidic mine drainage that is a significant contributor of manganese, zinc, copper, and cadmium into the Cement Creek drainage of the Animas River watershed. The Gold King Mine has not had maintenance of the mine workings since 1991, and the workings have been inaccessible since 1995 when the mine portal collapsed.

EPA Region 9 is focused on a stretch of the San Juan River extending from Farmington, NM to Mexican

Hat, UT.

### **1.1.2.1 Location**

San Juan County, NM and Navajo Reservation. The Animas River flows into the San Juan River at Farmington, NM. After the Animas River meets the San Juan River, the San Juan River continues to flow west through parts of New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah.

### **1.1.2.2 Description of Threat**

Mine waste water was released into Cement Creek and the Animas River. The volume of the release based on US Geological Survey (USGS) Cement Creek gauging station is estimated at three million gallons. The initial environmental concern was the pulse of contaminated water containing sediment and metals discharged in Cement Creek which flows into the Animas River through Durango, Colorado, and into New Mexico where it joins the San Juan River before flowing into Utah. The river is also used for recreational purposes, including fishing and rafting, and is an important cultural resource for the Navajo Nation.

The leading edge of the release reached the New Mexico border on August 8, 2015 where it eventually discharged into the San Juan River.

### **1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results**

Aerial and ground reconnaissance indicates that the plume associated with the Gold King Mine release has dissipated downstream. There is no leading edge of contamination visible in downstream sections of the San Juan River or Lake Powell.

EPA Region 9 is collecting and assessing water quality from the San Juan River from La Plata Highway in New Mexico to Mexican Hat in Utah. Water sampling is occurring, and pH levels and dissolved concentrations of metals are being monitored.

## **1.2 Incident Objectives**

1. Safety
  - Provide safe working environment for all response personnel.
  - Maximize protection of public health and welfare.
  - Identify safety issues and monitor adherence to Health and Safety Plan
2. Sampling
  - Daily water and sediment sampling from 11 designated locations along the San Juan River
  - Sampling from Lake Powell
3. Water Replacement
  - Procure water trucks and water points to be used for local agriculture and livestock
  - Work with Navajo representatives to staff water points and organize distribution
4. Public Outreach
  - Coordinate public forum at which Navajo tribal leaders and community members can address Incident Command representatives.

## **2. Current Activities**

### **2.1 Operations Section**

#### **2.1.1 Narrative**

Daily operations are focused around gathering water and sediment samples from 11 designated locations in the San Juan River. The Glen Canyon ICP is overseeing sampling in the vicinity of Lake Powell.

Water trucks to address Navajo agricultural and livestock needs have been secured and will be continuing



to deliver water to designated locations. The Unified Command has also identified a need on the Navajo reservation to provide feed for livestock.

### 2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

An Incident Command Post was established in Farmington, NM on 8/9/2015.

Representation at the Command Post includes EPA Region 9, US Coast Guard, Weston, EQM, ERS, and Navajo liaisons.

EPA Region 9 initiated water and sediment sampling efforts on August 9, 2015, to assess the impacts of the release at the Gold King Mine on the San Juan River. Starting on August 9, samples were gathered from the shoreline of following 11 designated locations along the San Juan River:

#### New Mexico

San Juan River at LaPlata Highway (SJLP)  
 PNM Intake (SJFP)  
 San Juan River at Hogback (SJHB)  
 San Juan River at Shiprock (SJSR)  
 San Juan DS from Shiprock (SJDS)  
 San Juan River at Four Corners (SJ4C)

#### Utah

San Juan River at McElmo Creek (SJME)  
 San Juan at Montezuma Creek (SJMC)  
 San Juan River at Bluff Bridge (SJBB)  
 San Juan River at Mexican Hat (SJMh)  
 McElmo Creek Tributary (MECT)

Sample totals are as follows:

August 8 - 4 water samples (SJLP, SJFP, SJHB & SJSR)  
 August 9 - 13 water samples (all sites)  
 August 10 - 12 water samples, 11 sediment samples (all sites)  
 August 11 - 13 water samples, 13 sediment samples (all sites)  
 August 12 - 13 water samples, 13 sediment samples (all sites)  
 August 13 - 12 water samples, 12 sediment samples (all sites)

On August 13, in addition to gathering shoreline samples, teams performed an assessment to determine locations that could serve as entry/exit points for air boats and other small water craft. No samples have been taken from the middle of the river yet although it is planned that today samples will be taken from the middle of the river at SJBB, SJMH, and MECT.

Water has begun to be delivered to Navajo Nation for livestock and agriculture. On Thursday, 11,000 gallons of water were delivered to Hal Chita, UT for use for livestock. 7,000 gallons of water was delivered to Shiprock, NM for agricultural use. Water is now staged at 6 locations throughout the outer reaches of the Shiprock chapter of Navajo Nation. The tank capacity at each of these locations is 16,000 gallons.

Yesterday, three EPA community outreach members spoke at two Chapter meetings arranged by the Office of Vice President Jonathan Nez as follow up to meetings on Monday, August 10. The purpose of both meetings was to apologize for EPA's actions to cause the spill and ensure that the utmost attention is being paid to evaluate the incident and ensure this never happens again, provide chapter residents information on the release, work being conducted to characterize impact to waterways, and provide the latest information on impact to water supplies and water resources being provided.

A meeting will be held today with the Nenahmeza chapter. San Juan, Upper Fruit Land, and Hogback chapters will also be in attendance.

## **Glen Canyon, Arizona ICP**

A second ICP was established on August 13 at the National Park Service Glen Canyon Headquarters. The National Park Service is providing EPA Region 9 with office space, logistical support, and housing. The focus of this ICP will be sampling Lake Powell in addition to performing community outreach. Coordination between the EPA, USGS, City of Paige, and Arizona Department of Environmental Quality has been established at this location.

OSC Dunkelman and LNO Robberson met with Congresswoman Kirkpatrick (AZ) and staff yesterday in two separate sessions.

The first meeting included Congresswoman Kirkpatrick and staff; Robert Varner, Superintendent of the Page, AZ Unified School District plus its Press Officer and two members of the High School Student Body; Page City Mayor Bill Diak; Chamber of Commerce members including Executive Director Judy Franz and Congresswoman Kirkpatrick's sister, also a Page, AZ Chamber of Commerce member of its Board of Directors; and a few interested citizens including Ms. Irene Jones, a member of the Navajo Nation.

The second meeting with Congresswoman Kirkpatrick took place at the Antelope Point Marina on Lake Powell, with two representatives of the NPS Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and three representatives of the resort and sport fishing industry on Lake Powell.

Yesterday afternoon, OSC Dunkelman and two START contractors departed on a NPS vessel for the first leg of travel up Lake Powell. Their objective is to reach the San Juan Arm of Lake Powell sometime today, where they will initiate sampling of sediment and surface water samples beginning at the point where the San Juan River enters confluences of Lake Powell. The plan is to collect surface water samples along the main axis of Lake Powell today and early Sunday. This sampling effort is expected to continue through Sunday afternoon.

Additionally, there is a pre-existing sampling expedition planned by USGS and NPS that is scheduled to begin August 19. This joint sampling event is scheduled to last one to two weeks and is presently focused on evaluating mercury distribution throughout the water column and sediments of Lake Powell. At this point in time it makes sense to have this sampling event expanded to include analytes related to the Gold King Mine response. OSC Dunkelman and LNO Robberson are working closely with NPS to identify the details necessary to potentially integrate EPA response sampling needs with those of the expedition.

The Arizona Department of Water Quality has collected samples in Glen Canyon and anticipates having results early next week.

LNO Robberson assisted NPS Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (GCNRA) in development of updates on its Website and Park "Phone Hot line", and NPS has also posted links to the Utah DEQ and US EPA incident websites.

Congressman Rob Bishop will be visiting Glen Canyon on Monday. This trip was scheduled prior to the Gold King Mine incident and will provide an opportunity for the NPS and EPA to provide an update.

In addition to the agencies and individuals mentioned above, today OSC Dunkelman and LNO Robberson have also worked closely with the NPS Resources Director and PIO in coordinated with USGS, City of Page Utilities, ADEQ, AZ Geological Survey, Utah DWQ, Utah DEM, Utah DNR, IHS, ATSDR, Coconino County Public Health and Coconino County PIO.

The issue remains regarding who or what agency is or will be willing to make a definitive statement regarding the water quality of Lake Powell... specifically if and when it might be safe for drinking and for recreation contact.

## 2.2 Planning Section

### 2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

Bret Moxley is now the Incident Commander

Sediment and water sampling of the eleven data points on the San Juan River will continue. Three samples at the far reaches of San Juan River will be gathered from the middle of the channel via small boat. The other 8 samples will continue to be gathered from the shoreline.

Sampling in the vicinity of Lake Powell will also continue out of the newly established Glen Canyon ICP.

Yesterday, a more robust water distribution system will be established throughout Navajo Nation. Water tanks are staged at 6 points throughout the Shiprock chapter with plans to add more tanks.

Additional representatives from the EPA's community relations team have arrived at the Farmington ICP. These members will be meeting with the Nenahmeza chapter today. Representation from San Juan, Upper Fruit Land, and Hogback chapters will also be present. A fact sheet has been established that will be distributed throughout Navajo Nation and will provide contact information for community members to reach Command representatives.

#### 2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

Continued daily water and sediment sampling is planned.

Locations for staging of water has been identified. This water will be available for use by Navajos for agriculture and livestock.

Community Outreach Branch at Farmington ICP has grown in personnel and will continue outreach with members of Navajo nation. Today meetings are being held with the Nenahmeza chapter.

#### 2.2.1.2 Next Steps

Potential procurement of additional water craft to be used for sampling from the middle of San Juan River.

Improve relationship with Navajo Nation.

### 2.2.2 Issues

No current relationship established with Navajo EPA. Establishing this relationship would likely be a great assist to Region 9's response.

## 2.3 Logistics Section

There is a need for a Logistics Chief, Liaison Officer, 2 Documentation Unit Leaders, and 2 Resource Unit Leaders. Resource Requests have been submitted.

## 2.4 Finance Section

### 2.4.1 Narrative

Yesterday, there was a burn rate of \$5,512.87 with a weekly burn rate of \$38,590.12. On average a total of \$3,329.31 is spent on personnel per day.

A total of \$204,308.50 is committed for upcoming operations.

## 2.5 Other Command Staff

### 2.5.1 Safety Officer

Personal Flotation Devices must be worn by all members of sampling teams while underway on any watercraft. When performing boat operations, a representative from each vessel must contact the Situation Unit Leader at intervals of no more than two hours stating location and current operations. Any lightning sighting will cause a stop to operations.

With weather being forecasted into the mid 90s, hydration is of paramount importance. Additionally, much of the terrain surrounding the river is uneven and rocky. Responders should transit these areas.

While transiting throughout the region, responders should be mindful of the potential for contact with wildlife. Scorpions, snakes, and other similar animals raise a potential for injury.

### 2.5.2 Liaison Officer

Liaison officer is continuing outreach with community members and representatives of the Navajo Tribe via the following mediums.

Shiprock Chapter Meeting Recap: EPA Staff Randy Nattis, Secody Hubbard, David Yogi, and Dan Heisner participated in a special meeting held at the Shiprock Chapter House from 15:00-19:00. The meeting was attended by approximately 450 residents. Scope of presentation, delivered by Secody and Randy, focused on what EPA R9 were doing to assess contaminants in the river and how we wanted to hear from the community about water needs so we can assist. Randy and Secody were commended by the Shiprock chapter president, and thanked by the area director of BIA, and New Mexico State Assembly Representative Sharon Chilleage for their presentation. National Public Radio, Gallup Independent newspaper attended.

KNDN AM 960 Radio: Randy Nattis delivered remarks in an open mic format over Navajo AM radio KNDN before his presentation before the Shiprock Chapter. Remarks consisted of the content of the presentation delivered to the Shiprock Chapter meeting attendees.

Fact Sheet on Region 9 Response Activities: EPA R9 staff in Region 9 have completed a draft of text to be included in a factsheet encompassing EPA R9's response activities along the San Juan River.

Two Public Presentations Scheduled for Friday: EPA R9 staff will present the status of Region 9 response activities to sample the San Juan River and provide water services at two public meetings on Friday, August 12 at Aneth Chapter and Oljeto Chapter to residents.

A more concrete schedule for meeting with each chapter of Navajo Nation is being established.

### 2.5.3. Weather Forecast

Weather forecast for Saturday, August 15

#### FARMINGTON AREA

##### *Today*

A mix of sun and clouds with a high of 95, low of 62 and 20% chance of precipitation. Wind coming out of the northwest at 12 miles per hour.

##### *Tonight*

No precipitation tonight. Partly cloudy, with a low around 62.

##### *Tomorrow*

Sunny with a high of 93, low of 62. No chance of precipitation.

### 3. Participating Entities

#### 3.1 Area Command

EPA Region 9 is coordinating with EPA Regions 6 and 8, Navajo Nation, and the states of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Arizona. The EPA Region 9 is working with the Navajo Nation to evaluate possible impacts to the Tribe. Potentially impacted water systems have been notified, and precautions are in place to ensure drinking water is protected. The EPA and New Mexico Environmental Department are providing assistance to community water systems and closely monitoring the situation. EPA Region 9 has contacted the Bureau of Indian Affairs regarding potential impacts to the Navajo Nation and is currently working with Navajo liaisons.

#### 3.2 Unified Command and Cooperating Agencies

The UC includes EPA Region 9 and United States Coast Guard. Bret Moxley has assumed the role of Incident Commander.

### 4. Personnel On Site

EPA - 10  
Weston START - 8  
Environmental Quality Management - 2  
USCG - 7

### 5. Definition of Terms

No information available at this time.

### 6. Additional sources of information

#### 6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

[www.epa.gov/goldkingmine](http://www.epa.gov/goldkingmine)

### 7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.